



**Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council
December 10 2013
10:00 AM
MINUTES**

Attendance

Lt. Governor Elizabeth H.
Roberts
Michelle Burnett
Jim Ball
Mark Farnum
Paul Stasiuk
Larry Grimaldi
Donna DiMichele
Susan Early
Jim Stone

Joseph Arsenault
Alysia Mihalakos
Lt. Patrick McMahon
Christopher DeGrave
Elizabeth McDonald
Scott Halsband
James Lanni
Jeff Hatcher
Vlad Ibarra

Brian Pires
Erin Lambie
Bill Mullen
Joe McCooey
Gregory Scungio
Jay Burdick
John Cagno
Robert Parfumore

I. Call to Order / Lieutenant Governor Roberts

The Chair announced that due to ongoing trainings the DOT conference room would not be available for next year. The first meeting will take place January 14th 10:30 a.m. at the RI Department of Labor and Training Conference Room and from then on all meetings will take place at the Rhode Island Department of Administration Conference Room B at 10:00 am. The Chair asked if members had space available to please inform the Office so we could arrange accordingly.

The Chair announced that the New Year would bring policy changes to the structure of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee Reports to better align them along Emergency Support Functions. This is part of the ongoing efforts mentioned at the last meeting from RIEMA Executive Director McDonald as the agency continues to update and re-examine roles and functions.

II. Approval of Minutes from October 8, 2013

The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency Update

The Chair introduced Michelle Burnett on behalf of RIEMA Executive Director, as she was unable to attend. Ms. Burnett discussed several initiatives including:

Grants: Issuing 2013 Dept. of Homeland Security Funding - \$3.5 million will be use to outline priorities for 2013 Emergency Management Preparedness Grant - \$3.2M and Mandatory purchasing and grant management training.

External Communications: RIEMA continues to design the Agency's website with more user-friendly information and updated technology. An online request form for Training & Exercise and Community Outreach was created as well as the National Flood Insurance Mapping Tool.

Planning: The agency is conducting a review of the Winter Storm Annex. It also, completed the needs assessment with cities and towns and is coordinating with locals and rolling out formal structure for planning program to ensure consistency and efficiency Dam emergency action plan update.

SERC Committees: Final stages of issuing statewide hazardous commodity flow study bid proposal and coordinating efforts on training and exercise for Hazmat/Decon and local first responders.

ESF 11 – Pilot summit meeting on Dec. 4th for the policy alignment, currently working on setting expectations across ESF's. As part of the restructuring there will be a needs assessment, planning cycles and maintenance, training and education.

IV. Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee Reports

A. Interoperability Communications Committee—*Jamia McDonald, Executive Director RIEMA*

Ms. Burnett provided an updated on behalf of RIEMA Executive Director Jamia McDonald. The ICC is finalizing a set of user-level policies for statewide interoperability communications as well as developing system policies for RICOP.

B. Healthcare Coalition of Rhode Island—*Alysia Mihalakos, Dept. of Health /Dawn Lewis, Hospital Association of Rhode Island.*

Ms. Mihalakos informed members that Dawn Lewis was currently in Louisiana attending a coalition conference and assessing whether a new model could be adapted to Rhode Island. She reviewed the Long-Term Care Mutual Aid Plan project that will help HEALTH identify the resources and create a plan to share supplies, transportation assets, staff, etc, during emergencies requiring the evacuation of a facility. The plan was activated and no issues emerged in regards to facilities evacuation. She then discussed the Airport Tabletop Exercise and steps to enhance information sharing with law enforcement and hospitals being cognizant of HIPAA considerations.

C. Haz Mat/Decon Technical Working Group—*James Ball, Dept. of Environmental Management.*

Mr. Ball reviewed the Trinity X Rhode Island State Special Teams Hazardous Materials and Decontamination Exercise on Oct 25. The exercise had three scenarios: 1) Clandestine methamphetamine drug lab, 2) White powder event, and 3) Rail car leak. The exercise tested the ability of the Haz Mat/Decon teams to identify and address specific chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) hazards, initiate command/control with multi-agency operations. He thank the Lt. Governor for attending the event and stated that the video has been posted at the RIEMA website www.riema.ri.gov. Lastly, Mr. Ball is working on long-term funding issues with RIEMA and assessing a recent incident with Carbon Monoxide in Providence with National Grid.

D. Behavioral Health Disaster Response Network Working Group — *Susan Earley, Behavioral Healthcare Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.*

Ms. Earley has been supporting Director Stenning identify relevant positions required for response and will take over a basement section on Barry Hall. All regional disaster behavior teams will meet every other month and the Council of Mental Health Centers is helping define training subjects.

E. Volunteer/Citizens' Corps Council — *Vincent Marzullo, Corporation for National & Community Service.*

Mr. Marzullo was unable to attend the meeting.

F. Law Enforcement Working Group — *Lt. Mark Farnum, Rhode Island State Police.*

Lt. Farnum updated the Council on the State Police purchase of all wheel drive Sport Utility Vehicles. The vehicles will provide a much better response and will ease the burden on National Guard assets.

G. Port Security — *Erin Lambie, United States Coast Guard. (Confirmed)*

Ms. Lambie provided an updated on the Maritime Security Plan and its assessment. The internal approval process is due in April.

The Port Security Forum focused on Cybersecurity and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems used to monitor and control many aspects of networks of petroleum facilities.

There will be a tabletop exercise in Massachusetts planning for the arrival of whaling ships.

H. Special Populations Working Group — *Steven Florio Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing /Susan Earley, Behavioral Healthcare Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.*

Interpreter Services was unable to procure an interpreter for Mr. Florio.

Ms. Earley stated that the group is waiting on guidance from Director McDonald on reviewing the emergency support functions annexes and how special populations are being addressed. Ms. DiMichele interjected that the preliminary work with emergency support function 11 will be looked at as the model for the rest of the ESF functions.

I. Urban Search and Rescue—*Chief Andrew Zarlenga, North Providence Fire Department*

A representative from USAR provided the updated. The USAR team increased its membership by thirty members; the team is looking into additional training and perhaps scheduling a tabletop in response. The team has had ongoing conversations with the Fire Academy to create technicians courses.

During the Sandy response there was a lack of chainsaws and other respondent capabilities, the team had requested additional materials pre-during and post storm and were pleased to report that the desired items were procured.

Task Force 7 recently completed training in Massachusetts and is hoping to replicate those efforts in collaboration with the Rhode Island State Building Code Commissioner's Office.

J. Transportation Security Working Group—*Brian Pires, Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council/Transportation Security Working Group.*

Mr. Pires provided an updated on the pre-holiday outreach to downtown businesses and in Newport. The group is also looking at federal legislation to supersede and address some ongoing issues state issues.

K. Mass Casualty—*Lt. Patrick McMahon, Charlestown Police Department.*

Lt. McMahon's committee has remained status quo.

V. New Business, Member Comments, Suggestions

The next meeting will be held in February 2014. More details will be sent out.